

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
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AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY
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AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY
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AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY

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TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: AUGUST 24 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL
INTEREST

LONDON FOR AMB/EX, SOFIA FOR AMBASSADOR

1. ARTHUR SPIEGELMAN OF REUTER REPORTED THAT ACDA DIRECTOR
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WARNKE TOLD NEW YORK AUDIENCE THAT U.S. AND USSR ARE CLOSE
TO AGREEMENT ON NEW SALT PACT. WARNKE SPOKE YESTERDAY TO
FOREIGN POLICY ASSOCIATION LUNCHEON. SPIEGELMAN SAID
WARNKE'S SPEECH FOLLOWED ONE TUESDAY BY DEFENSE SECRETARY
HAROLD BROWN "WHICH SIGNED SOVIET UNION THAT U.S. WAS
INSISTENT THAT NEW SALT AGREEMENT ALLOW IT TO DEVELOP WAYS
TO PROTECT LAND-BASED NUCLEAR MISSILES FROM ATTACK."

REUTER CORRESPONDENT SAID U.S. "WANTS NEW SALT AGREEMENT TO ALLOW IT TO USE MOBILE LAUNCHERS TO MOVE ITS LAND-BASED ICBM'S TO VARIOUS POINTS IN WHAT HAS BEEN CALLED 'NUCLEAR SHELL GAME.' MR. WARNKE SAID SALT TWO AGREEMENT BEING NEGOTIATED ALLOWS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF MOBILE LAUNCHERS: POINT ALSO MADE BY MR. BROWN IN HIS SPEECH BEFORE AMERICAN LEGION CONVENTION IN NEW ORLEANS." SPIEGELMAN SAID WARNKE STRESSED U.S. MILITARY STRENGTH, SAYING U.S. HAD NUCLEAR SECOND STRIKE CAPACITY THAT WAS GREATER THAN FIRST STRIKE CAPACITY OF SOVIET UNION.

2. MILTON BENJAMIN OF WASHINGTON POST REPORTED THAT PAKISTAN ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY THAT FRANCE HAS BACKED OUT OF AN AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE IT WITH NUCLEAR REPROCESSING PLANT THAT WOULD PRODUCE PLUTONIUM SUITABLE FOR USE IN MANUFACTURING ATOMIC BOMB. BENJAMIN SAID ANNOUNCEMENT "REPRESENTS MAJOR TRIUMPH FOR CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION POLICY. ADMINISTRATION IS HOPING FOR AN ADDITIONAL PIECE OF GOOD NEWS IN NEXT COUPLE OF WEEKS IN FORM OF DECISION BY SOUTH AFRICA TO SIGN NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION TREATY. FRANCE'S DECISION TO TO GO THROUGH WITH PAKISTANI DEAL IS ALSO EXPECTED TO BRING NEW PRESURE ON WEST GERMANY, WHICH HAS SOLD PILOT NUCLEAR REPROCESSING FACILITY TO BRAZIL. WEST GERMANY IS NOW ONLY COUNTRY STILL PLANNING TO GO AHEAD WITH PLANS TO PROVIDE NUCLEAR REPROCESSING FACILITY TO THIRD WORLD NATION."

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3. ROBERT KAISER OF WASHINGTON POST REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER, TO WIN CRUCIAL CONFERENCE VOTE FOR HIS NATURAL GAS BILL, HAS AGREED TO SPEND 1.55 BILLION DOLLARS OVER NEXT THREE YEARS ON BREEDER REACTOR RESEARCH HE PREVIOUSLY SAID HE DIDN'T THINK WAS DESIRABLE. SENATOR JAMES MCCLURE RELEASED DETAILS OF HIS COMPROMISE WITH ADMINISTRATION ON BREEDER RESEARCH. KAISER SAID COMPROMISE, WHICH PROVOKED IMMEDIATE OPPOSITION FROM ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSUMER ACTIVISTS, COMMITS ADMINISTRATION TO SUPPORT MAJOR NEW INVESTMENT IN DEVELOPMENT OF LIQUID METAL FAST BREEDER REACTOR, BUT DOES NOT INCLUDE IMMEDIATE CONSTRUCTION OF PROTOTYPE BREEDER REACTOR AT CLINCH RIVER, TENNESSEE, KAISER REPORTED. MCCLURE TOLD KAISER "THIS IS FUNDAMENTAL DEDICATION TO LIQUID METAL FAST BREEDER REACTOR PROGRAM., KAISER POINTED OUT "THAT IS JUST WHAT CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAD PREVIOUSLY OPPOSED."

4. AVIATION WEEK AND SPACE TECHNOLOGY (AUG. 21) REPORTED THAT CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS WORKING ON NEGOTIATING STRATEGY THAT IT HOPES WILL LEAD TO VERIFIABLE ANTI-SATELLITE AGREEMENT WITH USSR THAT WOULD DO AWAY WITH

EXISTING SOVIET SYSTEM -- "THOUGH IT IS NOT SAYING HOW THIS WILL BE ACHIEVED." WEEKLY JOURNAL SAID INTERAGENCY ANTI-SATELLITE POLICY WORKING GROUP HAS BEEN MEETING WEEKLY TO DEVISE NEGOTIATING STRATEGY. KEY AGENCY HEADS, SUCH AS SECRETARIES OF STATE AND DEFENSE, HOPE TO MEET IN MID-SEPTEMBER TO GIVE FINAL APPROVAL TO STRATEGY, AVIATION WEEK SAID. "NEXT ROUND OF U.S.-SOVIET ANTI-SATELLITE TALKS IS POSSIBLE IN LATE FALL. DURING FIRST ROUND, SOVIETS RAISED QUESTION OF HOW U.S. COULD GUARANTEE SPACE SHUTTLE WOULD NOT BE USED AS AN ANTI-SATELLITE SYSTEM."

5. UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL REPORTED THAT STATE DEPARTMENT SAID IT HAS TURNED DOWN 1.8 BILLION DOLLARS WORTH UNCLASSIFIED

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OF WEAPONS SALES TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES IN FIRST YEAR OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S POLICY OF REDUCING WORLDWIDE ARMS TRAFFIC. UPI SAID UNDER SECRETARY LUCY WILSON BENSON TOLD NEWS CONFERENCE TUESDAY ABOUT ONE BILLION DOLLARS IN PROPOSED ARMS SALES WAS REJECTED IN LINE WITH BROAD POLICY OBJECTIVES OF CUTTING DOWN ARMS SALES IN GENERAL, AND STOPPING EXPORT OF ADVANCED WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY TO AREAS WHERE IT HAS NOT YET BEEN INTRODUCED. BENSON SAID ANOTHER 800 MILLION DOLLARS WAS TURNED DOWN ON VARIOUS TECHNICAL GROUNDS. REJECTED SALES, SHE SAID, INCLUDED AIRCRAFT, HELICOPTERS, GUNSHIPS, ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS AND PATROL BOATS. BENSON SAID ADMINISTRATION WILL MEET ITS GOAL OF CUTTING BACK ARMS SALES TO 8.55 BILLION DOLLARS IN CURRENT FISCAL YEAR, WHICH ENDS SEPT. 30. THAT IS EIGHT PERCENT BELOW AMOUNT SOLD IN PREVIOUS YEAR, UPI NOTED.

6. GERALD NADLER OF UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL, REPORTING ON WARNKE'S ADDRESS TO FOREIGN POLICY ASSOCIATION, SAID ACDA DIRECTOR PREDICTED SALT TWO AGREEMENT BEFORE END OF YEAR IF PROGRESS OF LAST THREE MONTHS CONTINUES BUT HELD OUT POSSIBILITY OF SOMETHING LESS THAN FORMAL TREATY. HE SAID WARNKE, WHEN ASKED ABOUT POSSIBLE SENATE OPPOSITION TO TREATY, SPOKE OF "POSSIBLE OPTION" OF AN EXECUTIVE AGREEMENT. "THAT REMAINS OPEN," WARNKE SAID. NADLER QUOTED CONGRESSIONAL SOURCES IN WASHINGTON AS SAYING THAT WARNKE'S REMARKS INDICATED ADMINISTRATION WAS BY NO MEANS CERTAIN IT COULD GET TREATY THROUGH SENATE. THEY ALSO POINTED OUT THAT 1972 SALT ONE AGREEMENT WAS AN EXECUTIVE AGREEMENT TO WHICH CONGRESS LATER ASSENTED. CHRISTOPHER

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